

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4939

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FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, CVIS, SA

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR DHAHRAN ACADEMY TEACHERS

REF: JIDDA 5654

1. MAHY THANKS FOR THE ASSISTANCE OUTLINED IN REFTEL* YOUR MESSAGE ARRIVED JUST AS WE WERE PREPARING A TELEGRAM ASKING FOR EXACTLY THE CALLS YOU, ACTING DCM DANIELS AND ACTING VICE CONSUL WILLIS MADE ON SAG OFFICIALS.

2. WE HAD CONCLUDED THAT YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS NOW NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF SAG RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS REQUESTS GOING BACK TO EARLY MAY, AND BECAUSE THE ISSUE HAS RECENTLY BEEN ESCALATED TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND CROWN PRINCE FAHD LEVEL. LAST WEEK WE RECEIVED A CALL FROM MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM OFFICIAL IN DAMMAM WHO NEEDED INFORMATION ABOUT DHAHRAN ACADEMY TO HELP MINISTER YAMANI RESPOND TO A REQUEST FROM CROWN PRINCE FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF OUR VISA REQUEST IN A RECENT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. YESTERDAY, DR. ADNAN AL-KHALIDI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN INTERNATIONAL JCJJBOK (SAIS), TOLD ME HE HAD JUST PROVIDED MINISTER OF INFORMATION WITH DRAFT RESPONSE TO A SIMILAR REQUEST.

3. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY WOULD CONTINUE TO STRESS TO SAG OFFICIALS THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THE ACADEMY IS ENCOUNTERING

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AS RESULT OF THIS LONG DELAY. ALL TEACHERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO

REPORT FOR DUTY AUGUST 29 WITH SCHOOL TO BEGIN FOLLOWING WEEK, FOUR FA-

MILIES ARE NOW WAITING FOR THEIR VISAS IN ATHENS AND OTHERS ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THERE SOON. ACADEMY ADMINSTRATORS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN THAT VISAS NOT YET APPROVED (EVEN THOUGH REQUESTED IN MAY) AND CAN ONLY COUNSEL PATIENCE.

4. ACCORDING TO DR. AL-KHALIDI, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CLAIMED TO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT THE SCHOOL, (HARD TO BELIEVE IN VIEW OF OUR MANY CABLES AND MEMOS OVER PAST THREE MONTHS), AND WAS CONCERNED ABOUT LARGER NUMBER OF TEACHER VISAS REQUESTED THIS YEAR (A TOTAL OF 56). DR. AL-KHALIDI WROTE HIS MINISTER AUGUST 15 TO REPORT THAT THE ACADEMY HAD 732 STUDENTS LAST YEAR AND EXPECTS 1144 THIS SEPTEMBER. HE UNFORTUNATELY NEGLECTED TO MENTION THAT ACADEMY NEEDS MANY MORE TEACHERS THIS YEAR BECAUSE IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR STAFFING AND OPERATING FOUR NEW SCHOOLS IN DESERT CAMPS BUILT BY ARAMCO AS PART OF SAG'S HUGE GAS COLLECTION PROJECT. NORTHROP HAS ALSO ASKED ACADEMY TO STAFF AND OPERATE ITS EXISTING SCHOOL IN KHAMIS MUSHAIT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

A) WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSY WOULD KEEP PRESSURE ON THE MINISTRY, EMPHSIZING URGENCY OF ACADEMY REQUIREMENT, AND EXPLAINING THAT THE LARGE FACULTY IS REQUIRED PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF SAG'S ARAMCO'S GAS COLLECTION PROJECT.

B) IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MINISTRY COULD SEND VISA APPROVAL MESSAGES TO FAUDI EMBASSY IN ATHENS AS WELL AS SAUDI EMBASSY WASHINGTON, SINCE TEACHERS ARE BEGINNING TO STACK UP IN ATHENS AND ALL WILL BE ASKED TO TRAVEL VIA GREECE.
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